

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0293

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2280

EXDIS

LIMA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, BR, UY, PA, OAS

SUBJ: IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY

REF: ASUNCION 2279 STATE 122503

1. DURING JUNE 3 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED SOUTHERN CONE MEETING (REF A)
WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR PAPPALARDO
I WAS GIVEN FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT ON IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY.

FOLLOWING MAY 6 CALL TO ARA/ECA DIRECTOR ZIMMERMAN BY PAPPALARDO
CONFIRMING THAT IAHRC VISIT WOULD BE ALLOWED, MATTERS MOVED
SMOOTHLY AND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS HOPED FOR WEEK OF MAY 16. URUGUAYAN
GENERAL ALVAREZ, WHEN HE CALLED ON PRESIDENT STROESSNER THAT
WEEK REGARDING THE SOUTHERN CONE MEETING, COUNSELED IN THE
STRONGEST TERMS AGAINST BREAKING SOLIDARITY AND LETTING IAHRC
COME TO PARAGUAY. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A, ALVAREZ AND PARAGUAYAN
GENERAL GERMAN MARTINEZ THEN PROCEEDED TO BRASILIA TO MEET WITH
PRESIDENT GEISEL ON THE SOUTHERN CONE MEETING. ON HIS RETURN,
GENERAL MARTINEZ DELIVERED TO STROESSNER AN AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH
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HE RECEIVED FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA WHICH IN THE STRONGEST
TERMS WARNED STROESSNER NOT TO RECEIVE IAHRC. STROESSNER WAS
SO ANGERED THAT HE TORE UP AIDE MEMOIRE. PAPPALARDO SAID THAT
URUGUAY AND ESPECIALLY BRAZIL KEEP PRESSING PARAGUAY
NOT TO ALLOW THE VISIT AS IT WOULD VIOLATE ITS SOVEREIGNTY.
IN CONTRAST, ARGENTINA HAS NOT EXERTED ANY PRESSURE AT ALL.

2. NOGUES TOLD ME THAT PAPPALARDO'S TELEPHONE CALL TO ZIMMERMAN WAS BINDING ON PARAGUAY. HE IS AWARE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER BELIEVE THAT PERMISSION HAS ALREADY BEEN GRANTED. AS THIS IS A POINT OF HONOR HE AND PAPPALARDO FEEL CONFIDENT THAT PRESIDENT STROESSNER WILL GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. IT CANNOT BE DELAYED BECAUSE NOGUES MUST HAVE THE DECISION PRIOR TO GRENADA MEETING WHERE HE EXPECTS SECRETARY VANCE TO QUERY HIM. BOTH NOGUES AND PAPPALARDO MOST OPTIMISTIC WHEN I TALKED TO THEM LAST NIGHT.

3. CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ROMEO ACOSTA TALKED TO PRESIDENT JUNE 2 AND REPORTEDLY URGED HIM ALSO TO PERMIT THE VISIT SPEEDILY, TO AVOID ANY US ACTION AGAINST UPCOMING CREDITS. JUST IN CASE HE DID NOT MAKE HIMSELF CLEAR, I GAVE NOGUES AND PAPPALARDO THE GIST OF GUATEMALA'S 3415 REPORTING ON THE ARELLANO-ACOSTA TALK.

4. NOGUES TOLD ME THAT PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR HAS RECEIVED THE IAHRG REPORT AND SENT FINAL 10 PAGES BY POUCH. NOGUES IS EXPECTING COMPLETE REPORT FROM IAHRG. DOES DEPT HAVE COPY? PLEASE POUCH SOONEST.

5. I SHALL REMAIN IN DAILY CONTACT NOGUES, PAPPALARDO AND ALL OTHERS WHO CAN HELP AND WILL CONTINUE TO APPLY MAXIMUM PRESSURE THAT VISIT BE AUTHORIZED SPEEDILY. I EXPECT DEPARTMENT TO KEEP UP SAME PRESSURE ON LOPEZ ESCOBAR AND PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE ZIMMERMANN'S EFFORTS OF LAST WEEK. AS WE ARE PRESSED FOR TIME, I RECOMMEND ESCALATING PRESSURE AND HAVE LOPEZ ESCOBAR CALLED IN BY EITHER DEPSEC OR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS ON MONDAY OR TUESDAY.
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